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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7640

BILL NUMBER: SB 479

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Child Custody Proceedings.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Merritt

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires: (1) a person, other than a parent, filing for custody of a child to file a verified petition that meets specific requirements; and (2) a court to dismiss the petition if the person does not file the verified petition. The bill prohibits the court from modifying a custodial arrangement pursuant to a petition by a person other than a parent unless certain factors are met.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires a person other than a parent who files a petition for a determination of custody of a child to file a verified petition that specifies certain information. In addition, the bill requires the court to dismiss the petition should the person filing the petition not include all of the required information. This provision would reduce the workload of the courts. The number of cases in which a person other than a parent files a petition for a determination of custody is not known; however, the Indiana Judicial Center reports that the number of cases are likely few. As proposed, the workload for courts would be reduced minimally.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Courts.

Information Sources: Jeff Bercovitz, Indiana Judicial Center.

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